

Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 OES-06 ERDA-05 ACDA-07 /060 W
-----141018Z 040105 /11

R 140915Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 747

INFO SECDEF WASHDC/OSDPA/

COMSIXTHFLT

AMCONSUL TANGIER

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY MADRID

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MILI MO

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE FOR VISIT OF NUCLEAR-POWERED NAVAL SHIP

1. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED GOM APPROVAL FOR TANGIER VISITS OF USS CALIFORNIA (CGN 36) JAN 24-27 AND USS FARRAGUT (DDG 37) JAN 26-30. WE HAVE PREPARED FOLLOWING QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CONCERNING VISIT FOR USE ON AN IF-ASKED BASIS. UNLESS OTHERWISE INSTRUCTED BEFORE COB FRIDAY, JAN 21, WE PLAN TO USE LANGUAGE BELOW AS NEED AND SUGGEST WASHINGTON SPOKESMEN TAKE SAME LINE.

1. QUESTION: DO THE USS CALIFORNIA AND USS FARRAGUT CARRY NUCLEAR WEAPONS? ANSWER: IT IS LONGSTANDING US GOVERNMENT POLICY NEITHER TO CONFIRM NOR DENY THE PRECISE LOCATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

2. QUESTION: DOESN'T THE PRESENCE OF A NUCLEAR-POWERED SHIP IN PORT REPRESENT A HEALTH HAZARD TO THE LOCAL POPULACE DUE TO RADIOACTIVITY? ANSWER: EXTREME CARE HAS BEEN TAKEN IN DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF THE NUCLEAR REACTORS WHICH POWER SHIPS SUCH AS THE USS CALIFORNIA. NUCLEAR-POWERED SHIPS HAVE BEEN BASED AND HAVE REGULARLY
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VISITED IN THE UNITED STATES AND ABROAD FOR NEARLY 20 YEARS WITHOUT ADVERSELY AFFECTING THE ENVIRONMENT, OR THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF THE PUBLIC.

3. QUESTION: WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF A SECOND NUCLEAR-POWERED SHIP VISIT TO TANGIER WITHIN A PERIOD OF APPROXIMATELY SIX MONTHS? ANSWER: NUCLEAR POWER IS SIMPLY THE LATEST STEP IN THE EVOLUTION OF

SHIP PROPULSION. THE US NAVY HAS MADE THE COURTESY CALLS IN MOROCCAN PORTS FOR MANY YEARS, AND THE VISITS OF THE NUCLEAR-POWERED USS CALIFORNIA AND THE CONVENTIONALLY-POWERED USS FARRAGUT SHOULD BE VIEWED SIMPLY IN THAT CONTEXT.

4. QUESTION: DOES THE PRESENCE OF NUCLEAR-POWERED SHIPS INDICATE THAT THE US GOVERNMENT IS PLANNING TO USE NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN OR MIDDLE EAST?

ANSWER: THE FACT THAT THE USS CALIFORNIA IS NUCLEAR POWERED REFERS ONLY TO THE MEANS OF PROPULSION. IT REFERS IN NO WAY TO NUCLEAR WEAPONS CAPABILITIES OR THE LOCATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS, WHICH ARE NOT DISCUSSED FOR SECURITY REASONS.

5. QUESTION: IS EITHER OF THESE SHIPS ARMED WITH MISSILES?

ANSWER: BOTH VESSELS ARE MISSILE EQUIPPED FOR ANTI-AIRCRAFT DEFENSE.

6. QUESTION: WHY ARE THE SHIPS ARRIVING AND DEPARTING AT DIFFERENT TIMES?

ANSWER: THIS IS A MATTER OF THE SHIPS' SCHEDULES BEING DIFFERENT, AND NOT FURTHER SIGNIFICANCE SHOULD BE ATTACHED TO THIS FACT.

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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